

ELLESMERE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health FOR THE YEAR 1944.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1944. The Minister of Health has directed that the Report be prepared on the lines of that for 1943 so it will not assume its pre-war comprehensiveness. Restrictions previously imposed on the publication of population figures and some other matters have now been removed.

The Report includes notes by the Sanitary Inspector on matters with which he is most particularly concerned, for his co-operation and help during the year I wish to express my thanks.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

L. WILSON EVANS.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

| Name. | Qualifications. | Office Held. | Whole or Part time. |
|-----------------|---|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| L. Wilson Evans | M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. | Medical Officer of Health | Part |
| E. Wilkinson | M.I.M.C.Y.E., M.R.SAN.I. | Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor | Whole |

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the year 1944.

| | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|
| Population | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7196 |
| | | | | M. | F. | Total. |
| Births: Legitimate | ... | ... | ... | 67 | 60 | 127 |
| Illegitimate | ... | ... | ... | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| | | | | | | <hr/> 136 |
| Birth Rate per 1000 Population | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18.9 |
| Birth Rate England and Wales | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17.6 |
| | | | | M. | F. | Total. |
| Deaths of infants under 1 year of age | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 5 | 9 |
| Legitimate | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 5 | |
| Illegitimate | ... | ... | ... | 1 | — | |
| Deaths of infants under 1 year per 1000 births | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 66 |
| Deaths of infants England and Wales | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 46 |
| | | | | M. | F. | Total. |
| Still births. Legitimate | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Illegitimate | ... | ... | ... | — | 1 | |
| Still births per 1000 population | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | .28 |
| Still births England and Wales | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | .50 |
| | | | | M. | F. | Total. |
| Deaths | ... | ... | ... | 40 | 28 | 68 |
| Death Rate per 1000 population | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9.4 |
| Death Rate England and Wales | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11.6 |

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH.

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|
| | | | | M. | F. |
| Cancer | ... | ... | ... | 9 | 7 |
| Heart Disease | ... | ... | ... | 9 | 5 |
| Bronchitis | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 3 |
| Intracranial vascular lesions | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 3 |
| Deaths from Measles | ... | ... | ... | 1 | — |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough | ... | ... | ... | | Nil |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2 years | ... | ... | ... | | Nil |
| Maternal Deaths | ... | ... | ... | | 1 |

The general indication of the above figures shows a satisfactory state of the public health. The figures for the births has soared, 136 against 106 last year. This, with a considerable decrease in the number of deaths, the births are exactly double the deaths, gives a natural increase of the population, excess of births over deaths of 68. The rates for the births and deaths

respectively are the highest and lowest recorded. Two adverse features were the rather high infant mortality figures and the increase in the number of deaths from Cancer.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Anterio-poliomyelitis 1; Dysentery 3; Measles 13; Pneumonia 2;

Whooping Cough 30; Scarlet Fever 12; Puerperal Pyrexia 2.

DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO AGES.

| | | Dysentery. | | Measles. | | Pneumonia. | | Scarlet Fever. | | Whooping Cough. | |
|-----------|-----|------------|----|----------|----|------------|----|-------------------|----|--------------------|----|
| | | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 0— 1 | ... | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| 1— 3 | ... | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | 5 | — |
| 3— 5 | ... | — | — | 3 | 1 | — | — | — | — | 3 | — |
| 5—10 | ... | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 8 |
| 10—15 | ... | — | 2 | — | 3 | — | — | — | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 15—25 | ... | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 25—45 | ... | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| 45—65 | ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | — |
| 65 & over | ... | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Totals | ... | — | 3 | 7 | 6 | — | 2 | 3 | 9 | 18 | 12 |

One case of Scarlet Fever was removed to the Isolation Hospital. For the third consecutive year no case of Diphtheria was notified among children.

There was one death from Measles in a child a few weeks old in which Pneumonia ensued. There was no serious outbreak of any disease and generally it was a favourable year as regards infectious disease.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Immunisation was continued under the County Council scheme. There was no increase in the percentage of children under 5 years. Unfortunately the very young children are not being immunised in the numbers that are necessary if adequate protection is to be given against Diphtheria. Considerably less than half the children who reached one year of age in 1944 were immunised, and less than half of all children under 5 years are considered to be protected. The following figures show the position at the end of 1944.

| | Under 5 years. | 5-15 years. |
|--|----------------|-------------|
| Number of children immunised during 1944 ... | 74 | 14 |
| Percentage of children considered to be immunised at December 31st, 1944 ... | 46% | 93% |
| There were no cases of Diphtheria during the year. | | |

SCABIES.

There was little evidence of Scabies in the district during the year. Thirteen cases in six families were dealt with. There was no spread of the disease.

TUBERCULOSIS.

| | | | | Respiratory. | | Non-respiratory. | |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------------|----|------------------|----|
| | | | | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| New cases | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 1 | 4 | 1 |
| Transferred from other districts | ... | ... | ... | 1 | — | — | — |
| Service cases | ... | ... | ... | 1 | — | — | — |
| | | | | — | — | — | — |
| | | | | 5 | 1 | 4 | 1 |
| | | | | — | — | — | — |
| Deaths | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | 1 | — |

Number of cases on the register at the end of 1944.

| | | | | Respiratory. | | Non-respiratory. | |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|--------------|-----|------------------|-----|
| | | | | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| | | | | 13 | 15 | 13 | 11 |
| | | | | — | — | — | — |
| Totals | ... | ... | ... | 28 | ... | 24 | ... |
| | | | | — | — | — | — |

The trend of the cases of Non-respiratory forms of the disease to increase in proportion to those of the Respiratory form noticed in recent years continues.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Samples taken from various parts of the district showed some of the village supplies not to be satisfactory in quality and the quantity, in so far as a number of houses get their supply from one pump which in many cases is some distance from the house, is insufficient. It is expected that as a result of the scheme for providing a piped water supply throughout the district which has been approved by the Council, all the villages will be well provided.

The water at present providing a piped supply to houses in the Dudleston Heath area, which is the largest area with a piped supply, comes from the Liverpool Corporation supply. A few houses are supplied from the Bradford Estate in Great Ness and Little Ness parishes. About 18% of the houses in the district have a piped supply of water. About 3% are supplied by standpipes.

HOUSING.

Number of houses 1,713.

The problem of housing has received much attention during the year. Arrangements have been made to carry out the survey in accordance with the recommendations of the Hobhouse Report, and by the end of 1945 much of this should have been completed. The time limit set by the Committee was within 12 months of the end of the War so that the post-war programme may be based on the results.

The Minister of Health is prepared to give permission to the Council to advertise for tenders for the erection of houses where the sites are ready, so it is hoped that a start will soon be made to provide the houses for which there is so great a need.

The Council has allotted 20 houses for its first year's programme. Perhaps it is not too much to expect that in my next report I shall be able to report that they are going up.

SEWAGE.

There is no public sewage works.

A number of houses have septic tanks.

The Council has received a scheme from the consulting engineer, appointed for the purpose, for the sewerage of the district the consideration of which has been postponed until the provision of piped water supplies has been decided.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

HOUSING.

The Council owns 68 Non-parlour type houses, four of which have been completed during the year. All the houses are occupied, 38 being for tenants engaged directly in agriculture.

A post-war programme of 80 houses to be built in 4 years has been undertaken and sites have been chosen for the first 20.

No reconditioning under the Housing (R.W.) Act has been done during the year, but now enquiries are being made by owners of cottages with this in view.

The number of houses dealt with under these provisions in the pre-war period was 86.

Overcrowding has ceased to exist with the return of evacuees to their homes. The number of evacuees with the exception of those in requisitioned houses is nil.

Owing to war conditions, housing repairs and maintenance has been reduced to a very small amount, but with the new period on which we have entered difficulties will be overcome.

War-time conditions have ruled out systematic housing inspection except on complaint, but the Housing Survey on which the Council are embarking will make good the deficiency.

WATER SUPPLIES.

No acute shortage of water has been reported, neither is such anticipated. This is satisfactory in view of the fact that the major portion of the district is supplied by wells, some of which are owned by the Council. Cases of pollution of water supply have been reported and dealt with.

An extension of the water main has been laid for the purpose of supplying the U.S.A. Military Hospital at Otely.

INFESTATION.

Rats and Mice.

The district has received the close attention of a Ministry of Food Official who found one major and three minor infestations. The major infestation has been successfully reduced to a minor one and the minor infestations are kept well in hand by constant attention.

No infestations of bugs, fleas or other vermin have been reported and I am not aware of the existence of such.

MILK.

The number of producers remains at 447. Of this number 67 are accredited licences and 13 hold T.T. licences.

It is gratifying to note even this small increase of licences and to find that so much work has been done on farms to improve conditions.

There are about 40 retailers in the district.